

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Healthy agriculture land enhances food and fiber production, wildlife habitat, and scenic vistas, and improves psychological, economic, and environmental benefits; and,

*Whereas*, Canada Thistle and Leafy Spurge now infest 2,092,110 acres of South Dakota's pastures, cropland, and wild areas; and,

*Whereas*, The direct economic impact of this infestation is over \$80 million; and,

*Whereas*, The indirect economic impact of the weed infestation includes lower land values, losses from additional soil erosion, loss of soil nutrients, loss of biodiversity, and loss of recreational opportunities; and,

*Whereas*, Without control of these weeds, the overall economic loss would be in excess of \$180 million; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota cannot afford to ignore this growing threat; and,

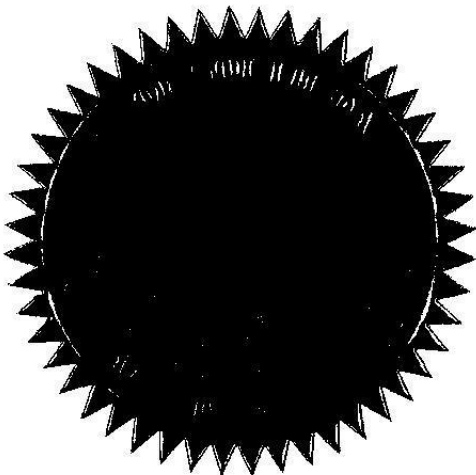
*Whereas*, Without everyone's support, we may lose the use and enjoyment of our lands:

*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2003, as

## *NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AWARENESS MONTH*

in South Dakota.

*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.



*M. Michael Rounds*  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

*Ch. Nelson*  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State